

Radio Free Europe Donations Urged

Former Mayor of Budapest Cites Right to Be Informed

The mayor of Budapest during Hungary's 1956 freedom fight has appealed to Chicagoans to help his countrymen by guaranteeing them the right to be informed.

"Among human rights, this is the most basic," said Joseph Kovago, 47, now of Wilmington, Del. And the job can be done, he said, with a contribution of Radio Free Europe, care of your postmaster.

"If I would ~~cause~~ speed to you to establish free-



dom of speech, that would involve military action," Kovago said. "But you can deliver the right to be informed without war."

KOVAGO'S remarks came at a press conference Monday in the Webster hotel, where he appeared with W. Beverly Murphy of Linden, N. J., president of the Campbell

Soup Co. and national chairman of Crusade for Freedom.

Crusade supports Radio Free Europe, a 25-station network that broadcasts to the 76 million persons living in Soviet satellite lands.

It is in the midst of a \$10 million national fund drive, with a quota of \$250,000 set for Illinois.

Murphy said that 90 per cent of the captive peoples tune in to RFE at least twice a week. Without it, he said, hope would ebb behind the Iron Curtain and the borders of the Soviet Union would move to the borders of free Europe.

KOVAGO, a slender, genial man who speaks fluent, if heavily accented, English, said that Soviet jamming of RFE broadcasts is ineffectual.

"When it is at a high level, people try all the harder to get the news," he said.

Kovago, who became mayor of Budapest in 1946, was ousted by the Communists and imprisoned for nearly seven years. He was freed by the Freedom Fighters but was forced to flee when the Soviets suppressed the revolution.

He estimated that there are still 30,000 political prisoners in Hungary and that only 3 or 4 per cent of the people are pro-Communist.

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